

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 876

**TESTIMONY OF ERIC BROWN
GENERAL COUNSEL
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS
AFSCME, COUNCIL 15**

**BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS OF
THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, my name is Eric Brown and I am General Counsel with AFSCME Council 15, a labor union representing the interests of almost 3000 police officers in 58 municipal communities throughout Connecticut.

I am here today to speak in support of the following bill before this Committee:

**SENATE BILL 876 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONDISCLOSURE OF THE
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF SWORN MEMBERS OF A LAW
ENFORCEMENT UNIT.**

We support SB 876 but we are concerned that it does not go far enough to protect the identities and home addresses of Connecticut's police officers and their families. The General Assembly should ensure, in this time when police officers have become targets for criminals in cities around the country, that police officers and their families will not be targeted at home as a result of governmental disclosure of their private and sensitive information.

While the language in this bill provides that addresses may not be disclosed from "personnel, medical or similar files," governmental agencies retain sensitive address information in files that do not fall within these parameters. We ask that the General Assembly take into account these other places where address information is kept and make sure that the residential addresses of police officers not be disclosed from files like voter rolls, tax rolls, DMV lists, and other sources that contain this information. The bill is a good start, but it needs to go further in order to accomplish its goal of protecting the privacy of public safety personnel.



City of Middletown

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March 14, 2012

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Please be advised:


On March 6, 2012, Governor Malloy signed Public Act 12-3 (*An Act Concerning The Exemption From Disclosure Of Certain Addresses Under The Freedom Of Information Act*) into law. This new legislation was enacted in response to the decision issued in *Commissioner of Public Safety v. Freedom of Information Commission*, 301 Conn. 323 (2011). In that decision, the Connecticut Supreme Court held that the provision in CGS §1-217 prohibiting the disclosure of residential addresses of individuals listed in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), applies to motor vehicle grand lists and to data assessors receive from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Section 1 of Public Act 12-3, which became effective March 6, 2012, allows the disclosure of municipal Grand Lists that contain residential addresses of the individuals specified in CGS §1-217 (FOIA). As a result, there is no need for an Assessor to redact a residential address on any Grand List. Additionally, this section of the bill provides that the non-disclosure provisions of the FOIA do not apply to documents eligible for recording in municipal land records or any list governing elections that state law Public agencies, officials and their employees may release these types of documents and records without redacting the residential addresses of covered individuals.

Therefore effective immediately this office will no longer redact the residential addresses of the individuals specified in CGS §1-217 (FOIA) from the Grand List. You are encouraged to take other actions to shield your addresses from disclosure.

The Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) is required to post on its Internet site, a guide for covered individuals to help them exercise their right to protect their addresses from disclosure. The DOL must create this guide and make it available not later than May 6, 2012.

Sincerely,


Damon Braasch, CCMA II
Assessor, City of Middletown